THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) Government is aware of the sinister designs of ISI of Pakistan to destabilise India by sponsoring terrorism and subversive activities in different parts of the country. The Police and intelligence organisations are under instructions to neutralise Pak ISI activities in all parts of the country whenever these come to notice. Also a series of steps have been taken including legal measures and diplomatic initiatives to curb and contain terrorist and criminal activities.

Killings of Dalits in Rajasthan

791. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated the 28th April, 1998 under the caption "when cruelty raised its ugliest face" reporting the barbaric killings of dalits in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government with regard thereto;

(c) whether any directive has been given to the State Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (d) The Government has seen the news-item referred to in part (a) of the question. The matter has been taken up with the State Government.

Killings of Civilians in Ethnic Clashes in Assam

792. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some militant groups like ULFA and Bodo during ethnic clashes have been killing several innocent people including tribals for more than four years;

(b) if so, the number of people killed by each group category-wise, each year;

(c) whether Government of Assam is incapable of maintaining law and order in the State thus risking the lives of law abiding citizens of the State;

(d) whether Government propose to take some action against the State Government in terms of provisions of the Constitution; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Bodo militants particularly NDFB have been indulging in ethnic violence since 1993.

(b) The estimated number of persons killed by Bodo militants in the last five years, year-wise is given below:—

Year	No. of persons killed
1993	25
1994	85
1995	50
1996	260
1997	90

(c) to (e) The Government of Assam has taken various steps to bring the law and order situation under control. Additional security forces have been deployed in the affected areas. The situation is under constant watch and review.

The State Government has also set up 18 relief camps and is providing relief materials including food. It has also announced payment of Rs. 1 lakh to next of kith and kin of each of the deceased and Rs. 10,000/- to each family whose houses had been burnt down.

Government of India is keeping a close watch on the situation and rendering necessary assistance to Government of Assam.

Punishment for Dowry Giver and Takers

793. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission for Women has suggested that severe punishment be given to givers and takers of dowry;

(b) whether it has also been suggested that strict laws be framed to ban remarriage of those men whose wives had been burnt for dowry;

(c) whether these suggestions also include tough anti-dowry laws and celebration of year 1999 as 'Dowry-less' year;

(d) whether Government are committed to remove such social stigma in the society; and

(c) if so, the action proposed to be taken in terms of parts (a) to (c) above?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) The National Commission for Women has suggested certain amendments in the Dowry Prohibition Act. It has recommended that the dowry taker as well as the abettor should be punished for the offence but the dowry giver should be excluded. A person giving dowry is, in truth, a victim of the dowry system. According to information available, the Commission has not specifically suggested framing of laws to ban remarriage of those men whose wives had been burnt for dowry. Further, no suggestion from the Commission observing 1999 as Dowryless year, has been received.

(d) and (e) The review of laws is an ongoing process and due consideration is given to the proposals received from the National Commission for Women and other quarters. The Government is committed to remove the stigma of dowry and other social evils in the society. The Government is alive to the needs of the changing society and has been continuously modifying and amending the existing laws with a view to making them more effective.

Apart from legal reforms, the Central Government has, from time to time, been writing to the State Governments stressing the need to take preventive, punitive and rehabilitative measures in connection with crime against women. The measures suggested by the Central Government include, inter alia, appointment of Dowry Prohibition Officers, setting up of Women Cell in police stations, wider recruitment of women police officers and gender sensitisation training to police personnel, etc.

Involvement of Terrorists in Hawala Scam

794. SHRI KULDIP NAYYAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the hawala scam came to light during a raid on the places of terrorists;

(b) if so, what action has been taken against the terrorists; and

(c) whether the courts took any notice of terrorists' aspect?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) No, Sir. It may, however, be mentioned that during the course of investigation of a terrorist funding case where the Hawala channel was adopted for funding the terrorists of Jammu and Kashmir, some diaries and files containing details of various receipts and disbursements were recovered.

After the completion of investigation of the said case, five persons, namely, Ashfaque Hussain Lone, Shahabuddin Ghauri, Mohd. Yusuf Shah, Mohd. Ahsan Dar and Dr. Mohd. Ayub Thakur, who were found connected with the terrorist activities, were chargesheeted on 23.3.1992 in the Designated Court, Delhi.

The Court took cognizance of the charge-sheet and the case is now under trial.

Rajiv-Longowal Accord

795. SHRI KARTAR SINGH DUGGAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of Rajiv-Longowal Accord;

(b) the components of the Accord which have been implemented and with what results; and

(c) what are its future prospects?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Rajiv-Longowal Accord included 11 items, out of which 8 items have been implemented and the remaining 3 items which are still to be implemented are:

(1) All India Gurudwaras Act.

(2) Territorial Claim; and

(3) Sharing of River Waters.

(b) A statement indicating the components of the Accord which have been implemented along with the results is enclosed. (*see* below)

(c) The Government of India is fully committed to implement the pending clauses of the Rajiv-Longowal Accord and to strive for a comprehensive settlement of all outstanding issues. Sincere efforts are continuing to find a common acceptable solution to the outstanding issues relating to Territorial Claims and Sharing of River waters in consultation with the concerned State Governments. As regards enactment of All India Gurudwara Bill, it may be mentioned that the same requires in-depth study from the constitutional and legal aspects and also requires consultation with State/Union Territory Governments and other concerned parties. The matter is still in process.